

**EXTRACTION AND DECELERATION OF LOW ENERGY
BEAM WITH LOW BEAM DIVERGENCE**

Cross-Reference to Related Application

5 This application is a Continuation-in-Part of pending application Serial
No. 09/716,931, filed November 20, 2000, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

10 This invention relates to ion beam systems such as ion implanters and, more
particularly, to methods and apparatus for extraction and deceleration of low energy ion
beams.

Background of the Invention

15 A number of systems are known for ion beam processing of a workpiece. Among
these, ion implantation has become a standard technique for introducing conductivity-altering
impurities into semiconductor wafers. A desired impurity material is ionized in an ion
source, the ions are accelerated to form an ion beam of prescribed energy and the ion beam is
directed at the surface of the wafer. The energetic ions in the beam penetrate into the bulk of
the semiconductor material and are embedded into the crystalline lattice of the semiconductor
material to form a region of desired conductivity.

20 Ion implantation systems include an ion source for converting a gas or solid material
into a well-defined ion beam. The ion beam is mass analyzed to eliminate undesired ion
species, is accelerated and/or decelerated to a desired energy and is directed onto a target
plane. The beam may be distributed over the target area by beam scanning, by target
movement or by a combination of beam scanning and target movement.

25 A well-known trend in the semiconductor industry is toward smaller, higher speed
devices. In particular, both the lateral dimensions and the depths of features in
semiconductor devices are decreasing. State of the art semiconductor devices require
junction depths less than 1,000 Angstroms and may eventually require junction depths on the
order of 200 Angstroms or less.

30 The implanted depths of the dopant material is determined, at least in part, by the
energy of the ions implanted into the semiconductor wafer. Shallow junctions are obtained
with low implant energies. However, ion implanters are typically designed for efficient

operation at relatively high implant energies, for example in the range of 20 keV to 400 keV, and may not function efficiently at the energies required for shallow junction implantation. At low implant energies, such as energies of 2 keV and lower, the ion beam expands as it is transported through the in implanter, and the beam current delivered to the wafer is much
5 lower than desired. As a result, extremely long implant times are required to achieve a specified dose, and throughput is adversely affected. Such reduction in throughput increases fabrication costs and is unacceptable to semiconductor device manufacturers.

In an ion implanter, an ion beam is extracted from an ion source, is accelerated and/or decelerated to a desired energy and is delivered to a wafer. In extracting ion beams with a
10 low final energy from the ion source, it is known that more ion current can be extracted if large acceleration and deceleration voltages are used. This tends to increase the virtual image size of the beam and to decrease beam divergence. Deceleration to the final energy may occur at one of several locations along the beamline. The location is selected to limit ion beam expansion and energy contamination.

In an electrode system for an ion source, the final electrode is preferably large compared to the acceleration electrode, as shown in Figs. 5-9 of a paper by Hiroyuki Ito and Neil Bryan, "Low Energy Beam Extraction in Terms of Magnetic Field, Electric Field and Ion Optics," IEEE (1997), pages 383-386. However, experimental data shows that when the
15 aperture of the deceleration or final electrode is larger than the acceleration electrode aperture, the acceleration electrode current becomes large, and operation becomes "glitchy," i.e., the extraction and deceleration gaps are prone to arcing. It is believed that the large current to the acceleration electrode is due to thermal ions from the beam plasma formed after the electrode system. The thermal ions are pulled from the beam plasma by the large fields
20 on axis near the last deceleration electrode.

U.S. Patent No. 5,196,706, issued March 23, 1993 to Keller et al. discloses an extractor and deceleration lens for ion beam deposition apparatus. U.S. Patent No. 5,932,882, issued August 3, 1999 to England et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,969,366, issued October 19, 1999 to England et al. disclose ion implanters with post mass selection deceleration. U.S.
25 Patent No. 5,747,936, issued May 5, 1998 to Harrison et al. discloses ion implantation apparatus with improved post mass selection deceleration.
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All of the known prior art systems for producing low energy ion beams have had one or more disadvantages, including high electrode currents, glitchy operation and high beam

divergence. Accordingly, there is a need for improved methods and apparatus for producing low energy ion beams.

Summary of the Invention

In one aspect, the present invention provides apparatus and methods for producing
5 low energy ion beams, which have low divergence and high beam current. The invention may be implemented as an ion source extraction system or as a deceleration lens system.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a low energy ion beam with low current to the acceleration electrode and in which extraction and deceleration are stable. This is accomplished by using a biased electrode to prevent ions in the beam plasma of the low
10 energy beam from reaching the acceleration electrode and using an ion optical element for inhibiting electrons in the beam plasma from being pulled out of the beam plasma.

In one embodiment, the deceleration electrode is made at least slightly more positive than the beam plasma potential of the low energy ion beam, and an electron repulsing electrode is used to inhibit beam plasma electrons from reaching the deceleration electrode.
15 The beam repulsing electrode is sufficiently negative to make the potential on the beam axis more negative than the beam plasma, thus inhibiting the electrons from reaching the deceleration electrode.

In another embodiment, the electron repulsing electrode is replaced by a magnetic element which produces a magnetic field for inhibiting electrons from reaching the
20 deceleration electrode. In addition, the electric field on axis near the deceleration electrode can be made small by shaping of the deceleration electrode.

In other embodiments, the acceleration electrode, the deceleration electrode, or both may be segmented in a direction lateral to the ion beam, and selected voltages may be applied to respective electrode segments so that a more uniform beam density and focus may be
25 obtained across the width of the beam.

According to an aspect of the invention, ion optical apparatus is provided for producing a low energy ion beam. The ion beam has a beam plasma at a final ion beam energy. The apparatus comprises an acceleration electrode for accelerating the ion beam, a deceleration electrode downstream of the acceleration electrode for decelerating the ion beam
30 and an ion optical element downstream of the deceleration electrode for inhibiting electrons in the beam plasma from reaching the deceleration electrode. The deceleration electrode has

a voltage that is selected to provide a potential barrier to thermal ions in the beam plasma to inhibit thermal ions from reaching the acceleration electrode. The deceleration electrode voltage is preferably selected such that the potential on the beam axis near the deceleration electrode is at least slightly positive with respect to the potential of the beam plasma.

5 In one embodiment, the ion optical element comprises an electron repulsing electrode having a voltage that is selected such that the potential on the beam axis near the electron repulsing electrode is at least slightly negative with respect to the potential of the beam plasma.

10 In another embodiment, the ion optical element comprises a magnetic element for producing a magnetic field for inhibiting electrons in the beam plasma from reaching the deceleration electrode.

Preferably, the aperture of the deceleration electrode is larger than the aperture of the acceleration electrode to permit low beam divergence.

15 According to another feature, the acceleration electrode, the deceleration electrode, or both, are segmented in a direction lateral to the ion beam to define individually controllable electrode segments. The segmented electrodes permit the beam density and focus of individual parts of the beam to be adjusted by controlling the voltages on the electrode segments.

20 According to another aspect of the invention, a method is provided for producing a low energy ion beam. The ion beam has a beam plasma at a final ion beam energy. The method comprises the steps of accelerating the ion beam with an acceleration electrode, decelerating the ion beam with a deceleration electrode downstream of the acceleration electrode, biasing the deceleration electrode at a voltage that is selected to provide a potential barrier to thermal ions in the beam plasma to inhibit thermal ions from reaching the
25 acceleration electrode, and inhibiting electrons in the beam plasma from reaching the deceleration electrode with an ion optical element downstream of the deceleration electrode.

30 According to a further aspect of the invention, ion optical apparatus is provided for producing a low energy ion beam. The apparatus comprises an acceleration electrode for accelerating the ion beam and a deceleration electrode downstream of the acceleration electrode for decelerating the ion beam. The acceleration electrode, the deceleration electrode, or both, are segmented in a direction lateral to the ion beam to define individually controllable electrode segments.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which are incorporated herein by reference and in which:

Fig. 1A is a schematic diagram of a prior art ion source extraction system;

5 Fig. 1B is a schematic diagram of another prior art ion source extraction system;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of a first embodiment of an ion source extraction system in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of a second embodiment of an ion source extraction system in accordance with the invention;

10 Fig. 4A is a simulation plot showing beam trajectories and equipotential lines for an embodiment of an extraction system in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 4B is a phase plot of the ion beam shown in Fig. 4A;

Fig. 4C is a voltage plot for the extraction system shown in Fig. 4A;

Fig. 4D is an energy plot of the ion beam shown in Fig. 4A;

15 Figs. 5A and 5B show equivalent simulation results for the extraction system of Fig. 4A, reconfigured in accordance with the prior art;

Fig. 6A is a simulation plot showing beam trajectories and equipotential lines for an embodiment of a deceleration lens in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 6B is a phase plot of the ion beam shown in Fig. 6A; and

20 Fig. 7 shows an electrode that is segmented in a direction transverse to the ion beam.

Detailed Description

Figs. 1A and 1B are schematic diagrams of prior art extraction systems. The extraction system of Fig. 1A is similar to a low energy commercial high current ion implantation system, and the extraction system of Fig. 1B is shown in the aforementioned
25 paper by Hiroyuki Ito et al. Like elements in Figs. 1A and 1B have the same reference numerals. An ion beam 18 is extracted from an ion source 10. Each extraction system includes a first electrode 11, an acceleration electrode 12 and a deceleration electrode 13. A plasma 20 is also shown. The plasma consists of electrons and positive ions. Also shown is a final beam plasma 21, which includes the final ion beam plus electrons and thermal positive
30 ions.

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of a low energy ion optical system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Like elements in Figs. 1A, 1B and 2 have the same reference numerals. The system includes first electrode 11, acceleration electrode 12, deceleration electrode 13, an electron repulsing electrode 14, and a final electrode 15.

5 Plasma 20 is located in ion source 10. In embodiments described below where the ion optical system is implemented as a deceleration lens system, plasma 20 is replaced by a beam plasma which includes electrons, thermal ions and ion beam ions. The density of electrons and ions is such that the beam plasma 21 is nearly space charge neutral. Ion beam rays 22 show the general shape of the ion beam 18 in the ion optical system.

10 In this embodiment, electrons in beam plasma 21 are inhibited from reaching deceleration electrode 13 by electron repulsing electrode 14 being sufficiently negative so that the potential on beam axis 19 near electron repulsing electrode 14 is at least slightly more negative than the potential of beam plasma 21. In addition, thermal ions in beam plasma 21 are inhibited from reaching acceleration electrode 12 by deceleration electrode 13 being
15 sufficiently positive so that the potential on beam axis 19 near deceleration electrode 13 is at least slightly more positive than the potential of beam plasma 21. Equivalently, deceleration electrode 13 can be viewed as preventing most of the thermal ions from reaching acceleration electrode 12 by curvature caused in the edge of beam plasma 21.

Because thermal ions in beam plasma 21 are inhibited from reaching acceleration
20 electrode 12 by the potential on deceleration electrode 13, the aperture of deceleration electrode 13 may be larger than the aperture of acceleration electrode 12. Thus, a virtual ion image that is larger than in prior art ion extraction systems is formed, with the result that the divergence of the final low energy beam is reduced. At the same time, the current to acceleration electrode 12 from beam plasma 21 is greatly reduced, such that arcing of the ion
25 optical system is also greatly reduced.

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of an ion optical system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention. Like elements in Figs. 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 have the same reference numerals. Fig. 3 is similar to Fig. 2, except that electron repulsing electrode 14 is replaced by a magnetic element 24 for inhibiting the electrons in beam plasma 21 from
30 reaching deceleration electrode 13. The magnetic element 24 may include magnetic polepieces 24a and 24b of opposite magnetic polarities located on opposite sides of ion beam

18 such that ion beam 18 passes through a magnetic field. The magnetic field inhibits electrons in beam plasma 21 from reaching deceleration electrode 13.

In addition, the shape of deceleration electrode 13 can be selected to reduce the electric fields on beam axis 19 near deceleration electrode 13. In one embodiment, the aperture of deceleration electrode 13 is angled toward acceleration electrode 12, and its axial thickness is selected such that the electric fields on beam axis 19 are reduced. In particular, deceleration electrode 13 can be shaped such that the aperture size decreases in a downstream direction as shown in Fig. 3.

The ion optical systems of Figs. 2 and 3 are described above in connection with extraction of ion beam 18 from ion source 10. However, the present invention is not limited to an ion source extraction system. In particular, ion optical systems similar to the ones shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and described above may be utilized as an ion beam deceleration lens system at any suitable point along the beamline. In the case of a deceleration lens system, plasma 20 is a beam plasma upstream of the deceleration lens. In a deceleration lens system, a similar electrode configuration or electrode/magnetic element configuration may be utilized at the upstream end of the lens system so that the thermal ion current from the beam plasma to acceleration electrode 12 is reduced. Thus, the ion optical systems of the invention may be implemented as an ion source extraction system or a deceleration lens system.

Fig. 4A shows a two-dimensional simulation of the embodiment of Fig. 2 for producing a 7 keV high current boron ion beam. Such an ion beam can be used for injection into a mass analysis magnet in an ion implantation system. This simulation is optimized for a small divergence, which is desired for injection into the mass analysis magnet. The simulation includes the thermal divergence due to 1 eV ions typical of such high current ion sources.

The numbers at the top of Fig. 4A are the negative of the electrode voltages relative to the ion source plasma 20. In the simulation of Fig. 4A, first electrode 11 is set at -59.5 V, acceleration electrode 12 is set at -30.0 kV, deceleration electrode 13 is set at -3.4 kV, electron repulsing electrode 14 is set at -8.4 kV and final electrode 15 is set at -7.0 kV, all of which are specified relative to the potential of ion source plasma 20. It will be understood that these voltages can be shifted upwardly or downwardly relative to ground potential. Voltages selected to generate a 7.0 keV ion beam, with final electrode 15 at ground potential (0 kV), are shown in Fig. 4C. For this example, first electrode 11 is biased at +7.0 kV,

acceleration electrode 12 is biased at -23 kV, deceleration electrode 13 is biased at +3.6 kV, electron repulsing electrode 14 is biased at -1.4 kV, and final electrode 15 is biased at ground. Corresponding beam energies are shown in Fig. 4D. In Fig. 4D, the dashed line represents beam energy as a function of distance (and electrode position) for the outside of the beam, and the solid line represents beam energy for the center (on axis) of the beam. As shown, the ion beam is accelerated to about 25 keV near acceleration electrode 12, is decelerated to about 6 keV near deceleration electrode 13, is accelerated to about 8 keV near electron repulsing electrode 14 and is decelerated to 7.0 keV near final electrode 15.

In the simulation of Fig. 4A, the voltage and size of deceleration electrode 13 are not sufficient to produce a voltage on axis 19 which is positive with respect to beam plasma 21. It is sufficient to reverse the curvature of meniscus 25 so that most of the thermal ions extracted from beam plasma 21 will go to electron repulsing electrode 14. The meniscus 25 represents the point along the beamline where the ion beam becomes substantially neutral. Thus, most of the thermal ions are prevented from going to acceleration electrode 12. Electron repulsing electrode 14 has a much smaller voltage with respect to the beam plasma 21 than acceleration electrode 12 (in this example, 1.4 kV versus 23 kV) and thus glitches (arcing) are prevented.

Fig. 4B shows a phase plot of the ion beam in Fig. 4A. The ion beam has a maximum divergence of 40 milliradians, with most of the beam having a divergence considerably less than 40 milliradians. In the embodiment of Fig. 4A, the magnitudes of the voltages on deceleration electrode 13 and electron repulsing electrode 14 with respect to ground may be changed to achieve more or less divergence in the ion beam.

Figs. 5A and 5B show the same ion optical system with deceleration electrode 13 and electron repulsing electrode 14 at the potential of the ion beam, thereby effectively reconfiguring the system to the prior art of Figs. 1A or 1B. In particular, electrodes 13, 14 and 15 have equal bias voltages. This simulation shows a much more divergent beam than was obtained with the simulation of Figs. 4A and 4B, with a maximum divergence of 100 milliradians, or 2.5 times as large as the simulation of Figs. 4A and 4B. It should be noted that in this configuration of ground voltage on electrodes 13 and 14, even reducing the source slit size and reducing the source current does not recover the low divergence seen in the simulation of Figs. 4A and 4B.

Figs. 6A and 6B show a two-dimensional simulation of a deceleration lens system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the ion optical system of Figs. 6A and 6B is located downstream of the ion source. As in the simulation of Fig. 4A, the numbers at the top of each electrode are the negative of the respective electrode voltages relative to the beam plasma. In the embodiment of Fig. 6A, first electrode 11 has a voltage of -3.0 kV, acceleration electrode 12 has a voltage of -12.0 kV, deceleration electrode 13 has a voltage of +700 V, electron repulsing electrode 14 has a voltage of -1.2 kV, and final electrode 15 has a voltage of -800 V, all of which are specified relative to the potential of the beam source.

An error in the neutralization routine of the simulation software on the right side produces an error in the meniscus 25 and also makes the "wings" in Fig. 6B larger. However, it can still be seen that low divergence is produced. The divergence is close to the thermal limit due to 1 eV ions in the ion source. The potential on deceleration electrode 13 and electron repulsing electrode 14 can be varied relative to the final beam ground potential to achieve the desired beam focus. Use of electrodes 13 and 14 also reduces the required voltage on acceleration electrode 12 for a given focus. For lower beam currents, or for parts of the beam with lower beam currents, the voltage on deceleration electrode 13 may be made negative (between the voltages of electrodes 12 and 14) to reduce focusing.

In the deceleration lens system shown in Fig. 6A and described above, acceleration electrode 12, deceleration electrode 13, or both, may be segmented in a direction transverse to the ion beam. An embodiment of a segmented acceleration electrode 12 is shown in Fig. 7. Acceleration electrode 12 may include electrode segments 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54 above ion beam 18 and electrode segments 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64 located below ion beam 18. The number and size of electrode segments may be selected for a particular application.

Furthermore, independent voltages, some or all of which may be the same or different, may be applied to each of the electrode segments to achieve a desired result. Using the segmented electrodes, both the final beam density and the focus of individual parts of the beam may be adjusted. For example, if a given segment of electrode 12 has a more negative voltage than the two adjacent electrode segments, then the beam current density that passes that segment is increased and the focusing is increased. Likewise, if a given segment of electrode 13 has more positive voltage than the two adjacent electrode segments, then the beam current density that passes that segment is decreased and the focusing is increased. Thus, by

adjusting the voltages on the segments, both the density and focus of the beam may be tailored. If the voltages on the segments of electrodes 12 and 13 are adjusted, then the focus can be tailored. If the voltages on electrode 13 are all negative with respect to final ground, then electron repulsing electrode 14 may be eliminated. The positions of the electrode
5 segments across ion beam 22 may be aligned or may be staggered.

While there have been shown and described what are at present considered the preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

10 What is claimed is:

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